GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:101
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2005
OPERATION OF FLIGHTS TO GULF COUNTRIES
Krishnadas Shri N.N.;Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights of Indian Airlines and Air India being operated to the Gulf countries;

(b) the number of passengers travelled to Gulf countries during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of flights operating between India and Gulf countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to introduce low cost flight from India to Gulf countries and also South East Asia regions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE(INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 101 FOR 10.03.2005 REGARDING OPERATION OF FLIGHTS TO GULF COUNTRIES.

(a): Air India and Indian Airlines are at present operating 103 and 70 flights per week respectively to Gulf Countries.

(b): The number of passengers travelled to Gulf countries by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of passengers travelled. (In Lakhs)
2001-02	20.43
2002-03	22.32
2003-04	24.38

(c) and (d): Increase in frequencies will depend on bilateral arrangements between India and the respective countries on the basis of assessment of traffic demand on different routes. As far as peak season demand is concerned, foreign airlines are allowed to operate additional services during the limited open sky policy announced by the Government.

(e) and (f): Yes, Sir. Air India is in the process of starting a subsidiary Low Cost Airline, Air India Express. This airline will commence operations in a phased manner from India to the Gulf and India to South East Asia. In Phase I, this airline will operate from India to certain points in the Gulf. In Phase II, based on bilateral issues and availability of aircraft, these services will be extended to South East Asia and to other points in the Gulf. The first phase of the operations is expected to be launched in April 2005.